

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 12, 16, and 21 are amended and non-elected Claims 25-33 are canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, by the present amendment. The changes to Claims 1, 12, 16, and 21 are supported in the originally-filed disclosure at least at page 24, lines 18-24. Thus, no new matter is added.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1-24 as anticipated by Stefik, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,957,193, herein “Stefik”).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the pending claims.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an information processing device serving as a contents using device and includes:

a communication unit for executing communication processing with a license storage device storing rights information serving as **usage rights** information of contents **associated with a user of the information processing device**, and communication processing with a contents distribution server;

an encryption processing unit for executing encryption processing including authentication processing in said communication processing; and

a control unit for executing processing control for inputting rights information corresponding to contents from said license storage device, via said communication unit, transmitting said input rights information to said contents distribution server, and receiving contents set corresponding to said transmission rights information from said contents distribution server and playing or using said contents.

The outstanding Office Action asserts Stefik as teaching every element of Claim 1.

Stefik describes content transfer to a requesting repository based on the security level of the requesting repository and the usage rights associated with the requested digital work. As described at column 6, lines 45-67, of Stefik, once the requesting repository establishes a

session with the repository that has the requested content, “Repository 1 checks the **usage rights associated with the digital work** to determine if the access to the digital work may be granted.” Thus, Stefik does not teach or suggest at least an information processing device including “a communication unit for executing communication processing with a license storage device storing rights information serving as **usage rights** information of contents **associated with a user of the information processing device**,” as recited by amended Claim 1.

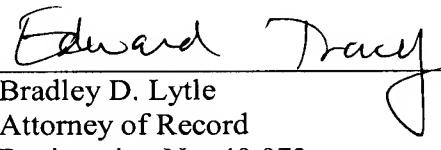
Because Stefik does not teach or suggest at least the above-discussed features of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of Claim 1 and Claims 2-11, which depend therefrom, be withdrawn.

Claims 12, 16, and 21, though differing in scope from Claim 1, patentably define over Stefik for substantially the same reasons as Claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of Claim 12, Claims 13-15, which depend therefrom, Claim 16, Claims 17-20, which depend therefrom, Claim 21, and Claims 22-24, which depend therefrom, be withdrawn.

Accordingly, the outstanding rejections are traversed and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

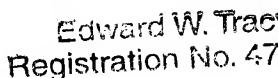
Respectfully submitted,

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